

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

by Linda G. Murphy, Unit Coordinator

## Planning for Your Family’s Security

As I write this article, the nation is once again on high alert as we enter Iraq. Hopefully, by the time this enters your mailbox, the war will be over, the alert status reduced, and life will be back to normal. Recognize that ‘normal’ has a different meaning since 9/11. Because of this, having resources readily available to assist you through the process, can ease the task.

Emergencies come in many forms – wars, natural disasters, terrorist activities. We have experienced all in the past few months – a sniper, winter storms, and now war with Iraq. The alerts associated with terrorism have been ongoing since 9/11. Being prepared for emergencies is critical to the family’s well-being and a sense of security by the individual members.

Many agencies within the community have excellent resources to assist families in planning with the physical preparedness. The County Office of Emergency Services (EMS) has recommendations that can be accessed on the county web site at [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) and has prepared an insert for this newsletter. Related State links can be accessed through the EMS site. The Red Cross has excellent handbooks for families, first aid kits, and resources for schools.

Virginia Cooperative Extension also has resources that can help in your preparedness plans. These can be accessed at our web site at [www.ext.vt.edu/resources](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources). The section on Disasters-Preparation and Response will provide a list of available publications related to planning and recovery. The agricultural community should find the series on *Farm Security* useful. These publications are also available through our office, if you do not have access to a computer.

For many emergency situations the ease of recovery is related to the preparation. Organizing papers and communicating with appropriate individuals is important. What documents should be included in your emergency plan? Do you have an appropriate place for each document? Have you told anyone else where you keep

your vital information? And have you shared your wishes in the event of your death? This information is needed to avoid financial problems later. The publication, *Emergencies: Are you Prepared?* can help you work through the planning process. Even if you have this together, is it up-to-date? Do you include a copy of the plan in your emergency supply kit? Review and revise your plan on a regular basis.

Parents need to be mindful of their children’s reactions to what is going on. Age will affect their reactions and feelings. It is important to talk about preparations as a family. Practice-drills are an important step that require the involvement of all family members. Children will need reassurance that they and their loved ones are safe. They need to have a chance to ask their questions and get factual information to dispel misperceptions and rumors that will arise due to their immature reasoning and knowledge. As adults, it is easy to become preoccupied, anxious, or sad due to the crisis. It may be necessary to turn off the TV or other constant stream of news about a crisis to avoid this happening. It is more important to be available to your children when they need you most.

Many resources are available for parents, teachers, and family support professionals that address war and terrorism. CYFERnet ([www.cyfernet.org](http://www.cyfernet.org)) is a joint project of our national partner, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of USDA and the Cooperative Extension System. The site lists publications related to talking with children about war and terrorism, patriotism; protecting children from traumatic media exposure; classroom resources; stress and coping; and related organizations and links.

Today’s global society exposes us to tragedy and terror on a daily basis. While my hope is that no one experiences these conditions anywhere, the reality is that there is a certain level of risk related to any disaster, whether it be caused by war, nature, or terrorists. Learning how to best prepare for it, without becoming obsessed by fear, is important to your family’s security.

**Upcoming Events**

Check out the Calendar of Events at [www.ext.vt.edu/offices](http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices).  
Click on Culpeper, click on Calendar of Events.

## About Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a product of cooperation among local, state, and federal governments in partnership with tens of thousands of citizens, who, through local Extension Leadership Councils, help design, implement and evaluate Cooperative Extension's needs-driven programs.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach program of Virginia's land grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, and a part of the National Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Extension programs are delivered through a system incorporating the expertise of faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Human Sciences and Education, the College of Natural Resources, and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, all at Virginia Tech; and the School of Agriculture, Science and Technology at Virginia State University.

Virginia Cooperative Extension in Culpeper County 727-3435 101 South West Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

# Culpeper Regional Airport *by Tanya Woodward*

## New Beginnings and Sad Endings

**The WHITE HAWK AVIATION FLIGHT SCHOOL, located at the Culpeper Regional Airport, is under new management.**

The new manager, Robert W. Harmon, brings many years of flying and teaching experience to the school. He has been a pilot since 1970 and has been a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) since 1980. He has accumulated more than 4000 hours as a CFI, with more than 5000 total flying hours.

He is a graduate of Ohio State University, served in the USN 1952-1956, taught in the public schools, grades 7 through 12, for 7 years, served as a Special Agent FBI for 21 years as “street agent”, supervisor, and instructor at the FBI Academy, Quantico, VA. He was the Aviation Program Head at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas, VA for 11 years and a Certified Flying Instructor (CFI) and the Chief Ground Instructor at the USMC Quantico Flying Club.

The airplanes presently used for training at the flight school are Cessna 172 models, model years 1987 through 2001, with a 2002 model expected to come on board in March of this year. All are certified for Instrument Flight, and the newer models are equipped with GPS.

At this time, the school is staffed and equipped to offer ground schools and flight training for the Private Pilot License, the Instrument Rating, and to administer FAA Flight checks and currency training. The school will offer training for the Commercial License, High Performance, and Complex Airplane endorsements when the required airplanes are acquired.

If you are interested in flight training, please call White Hawk at (540) 727-8400.



Joe Natoli

On a somber note, we lost a very integral part of our airport family on February 27, 2003, when Joe Natoli died at Culpeper Regional Hospital.

Joe was a veteran of the United States Army. He was an active member of such clubs as the Quiet Birdman Assoc., the Lions Club of Springfield, Aircraft Owner and Pilot Assoc., Experimental Aircraft Assoc. and Warbird Assoc. Joe and his wife Geri had celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on New Year’s Day 2003.

Joe was a ray of sunshine to all of us here at the airport. He had such a wonderful way with people. He went the extra mile for his customers and his co-workers by bringing baked goodies from home to keeping the airport open late to accommodate the last flying straggler that needed gas. We will all certainly miss Joe, and we keep his family in our prayers.

In March, we also lost a part of our extended family. Elmer Dyer passed. Elmer had been the Manager here at the Airport some years ago and a Flight Instructor here for many years thereafter. Elmer could be found at whatever airport he was working at

## HIGH FLIGHT By John Gillespie Magee, Jr. September 3, 1941

Oh, I have slipped the surly  
bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on  
laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I have climbed and  
joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and  
Soared and swung.

High in the sunlit silence. Hov’ring there,  
I’ve chased the shouting wind along,  
And flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

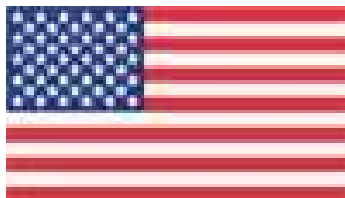
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I’ve topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.



An airport tenant took this picture. Joe was fueling their plane.

from sunrise to well after sunset. He was incredibly passionate about instructing and has many students to attest to that. Nothing gave him more joy than to fly. We will miss Elmer, and we send our prayers out to his family as well.

Let us not forget to  
**support our troops  
overseas.**



# News from the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney

## Gary Close on Mission Trip to Haiti

A growing trend in American Churches is the short foreign mission trip. Virtually unheard of twenty years ago, they are now becoming almost commonplace. Of course where you go can make the commonplace anything but.

That certainly was true for Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close. "Now I know what it was like to live in another century," Close said of his experience.



Gary Tew and Joe Van Wingerden on river cruise

Close and two others from Culpeper flew to Haiti in Mid-March to work on a medical clinic being built by a private Christian Organization, Double Harvest. The clinic has become something of a project for Stevensburg Baptist Church where Close is a member.

Why the Culpeper-Haiti connection? Mainly because of Culpeper resident Joe VanWingerden who sits on the board of Double Harvest. Van Wingerden, locally known for his business of greenhouse operation and construction, is also very active in foreign missions. Double Harvest, founded by his family, is but one of several mission projects Van Wingerden has undertaken over the years. Double Harvest uses the profits of its farming operation to provide employment for local farmers, teach better farming skills, fund a school and a community medical clinic.

The existing clinic had become too small and dated. That's where Close and his fellow team members came into the picture. Fellow church member, and Culpeper plumber, Gary Tew, also went on the weeklong trip. Rounding out the Culpeper crew was long-time Culpeper resident, Gary Norman, who presently lives in Spotsylvania but intends to return to Culpeper in the near future. Working with resident Haitians and two other friends of the foundation; Close, Van Wingerden, Tew and Norman worked five days installing cabinets, finishing out the plumbing, hanging ductwork and installing a roof for an outside "waiting room".

While Close may be skilled in the ways of the courtroom, his construction skills are more rudimentary. "I've seen Gary swing a hammer," VanWingerden joked. "That's why he was a plumber's assistant." "Actually, I did a little bit of everything," Close responded laughing, "although I don't think I ever did get my hands on a hammer."

Both Tew and Close were deeply affected by the poverty of the people there. "They literally have nothing," Close said. The compound ran on its own generator. Electricity from Port-au-Prince rarely makes it out into the countryside. So Close and the other team members had to learn about news from America via short wave radio at night. The team was in Haiti when the Iraqi War broke out. "We were glued to the radio at night," Close said.

The clinic, when finished, will serve the rural area in which it sits. With two operating rooms, and a resident doctor, it promises to greatly help the people of that area, where malaria and typhoid run rampant. "I'm glad I was able to do something to help," Close said. "But I think I am the one who benefited by this trip-because I got to see how fortunate we are to live in America."



Gary Norman at work



Gary Close—Our Man in Haiti



Plumber Gary Tew at work



Clinic in Haiti



## *Culpeper County Sheriff's Office*

*By Sheriff Lee Hart*



### *Culpeper County Sheriff's Office Project I.D.*

We have just launched the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office Project ID. Project ID is a child identification program that could help save a child's life. The program puts a child's picture, fingerprint, physical description, and parental information on a card the size of a driver's license. The program is funded through a \$5,000 State grant obtained by the Sheriff's Office, as well as a \$1,500 supplement from the Sheriff's Office. I feel this is a small price to pay. If this program helps save one child's life, it has been worth the expense.



### *National Sheriffs' Association Meeting*

I made a recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Sheriffs' Association Meeting to voice concerns about inadequate funding for local first responders. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, local law enforcement has had to have a higher visibility and take more security precautions, but we have not received any extra funding. While in Washington, I had a conversation with Congressman Eric Cantor. I told him that because of our location and how close we are to Washington, D.C., we have some unique concerns. I would like to use additional funds for a "reverse 911" system that could notify citizens if an emergency occurred. I left the meeting with a positive feeling, and I appreciate Congressman Cantor for taking the time to speak with me.

### *Blue Ridge Task Force recognized for their hard work*

In a recent presentation before the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, Senator Edd Houck presented a General Assembly resolution to me and five other law enforcement commanders from Culpeper, Orange, and Madison Counties saluting our efforts as leaders of the Blue Ridge Drug Task Force. The Task Force arrested more than 50 suspects, executed 41 search warrants, and seized almost 6,000 grams of illegal drugs, nearly \$84,000 in cash, and 67 illegal firearms. As chairman of the Task Force, I will truly cherish this. It is something that will go down in recorded history in the State Senate archives, and that in itself is really special.



**The Sheriff's Quarterly Report** took place on March 18, 2003, at the Mitchells Presbyterian Church. I would like to thank Pastor John Grotz for allowing us to use his beautiful church to hold this event. The next Sheriff's Quarterly Report will take place on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayland Blue Ridge Center on Ryland Chapel Road ( Rt. 640) in Rixeyville. Please check the local newspapers or visit our website at [www.culpepersheriffsoffice.com](http://www.culpepersheriffsoffice.com) for the details as the event draws closer.

## From Your Commissioner of the Revenue

by Terry L. Yowell



**Terry Yowell,  
Commissioner  
of the Revenue**

### The more you know.....

Quite a few folks have called me with questions since receiving their 2003 Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change. Below is a list of the most frequently asked questions along with answers referenced from the Constitution of Virginia and the Code of Virginia. I hope you find this information helpful. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at (540)727-3443 or tyowell@culpepercounty.gov if you need additional information.

#### WHY IS REAL ESTATE TAXABLE?

The Constitution of Virginia Article X § 1 states: All property, unless an exception is provided by the General Assembly, shall be taxed.

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3201 states: *All real estate, except that exempted by law, shall be subject to annual taxation as may be prescribed by law.*

#### WHY IS REAL ESTATE REASSESSED?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3252 states: *There shall be a general reassessment of real estate every four years. Any county which, however, has a total population of 50,000 or less may elect by majority vote of its board of supervisors to conduct its general reassessment at either five-year or six-year intervals.*

Prior to 2003, Culpeper County was at a five-year interval with the last general reassessment conducted in 1998. Following 2003 the board of Supervisors approved a four-year interval with the next general reassessment scheduled for 2007.

#### IS PROPERTY ASSESSED AT A PERCENTAGE OR AT FULL VALUE?

The Constitution of Virginia Article X § 2 states: *All assessments of real estate and tangible personal property shall be at their fair market value, to be ascertained as prescribed by law.*

The Code of Virginia §58.1-3201 states: All general reassessments of real estate shall be at 100% fair market value.

#### WHO PERFORMS THE REASSESSMENT?

The Code of Virginia §58.1-3271 B states: *The governing body of any such county or city may appoint a real estate appraiser to perform the actual function of determining value for real estate in the county or city for use by the board of assessors.*

Additionally:

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3275 states: *Every general reassessment of real estate in a city or county shall be made by (i) a professional assessor appointed by the governing body, certified as qualified by the Department of Taxation; (ii) a board of assessors of not fewer than three members, with not more than one member from each district for the election of a member of the governing body within such city or county appointed by the governing body. These assessors shall be designated on or after July 1 in the year immediately preceding the year in which the general reassessment of real estate is required to be made.*

On June 1, 2001 Culpeper County, on behalf of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, mailed a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the General Re-

assessment of Real Property to ten firms certified by the Department of Taxation to appraise Real Property. Sealed proposals were received by the County until June 29, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.. Four firms submitted proposals. The lowest bid was submitted by Blue Ridge Appraisal Company. This bid included assessment of new construction, mobile homes and digital photography.

On December 13, 2002, Blue Ridge Appraisal Company was certified as the Professional Assessor to serve for the 2002-2003 General Reassessment of real estate in Culpeper County and having fully met the requirements established by the Department pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 58.1-3275.

#### WHEN DID THE COLLECTION OF DATA TAKE PLACE?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3257 states: *In every city and county the person or officers making such reassessment shall complete the same and comply with the provisions of § 58.1-3300 not later than December 31 of the year of such reassessment. But the circuit court in such city or county may for good cause, extend the time for completing such reassessment and complying with such section for a period not exceeding three months from December 31 of the year of such reassessment.*

The Contract Term (as written in the contract between Culpeper County and Blue Ridge Appraisal Company): The Contractor shall commence work to be performed under this contract on or before November 1, 2001 and shall complete and deliver said work on or before December 31, 2002.

On December 23, 2002, an extension was requested and granted for good cause for 90 days. The reassessment was completed on March 31, 2003.

#### WHERE CAN THE REASSESSMENT RECORD/LAND BOOK BE FOUND?

The Code of Virginia §58.1-3300 states: *As soon as the persons, or officers, designated under the provisions of Article 6 ( § 58.1-3270 et seq.) herein have completed the reassessment, they shall make two copies of such record, in the form in which the land books are made out, and shall certify on oath that no assessable real estate is omitted and that there is no error on the face of such record. Such persons, or officers, designated as aforesaid shall then file the original of such reassessment in the office of the circuit court clerk of the city or county and one copy to the local commissioner of the revenue of the city or county and one copy to the local board of equalization of such city or county.*

#### HOW AM I NOTIFIED?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3330 A. states: *Whenever in any county, city or town there is a reassessment of real estate, or any change in the assessed value of any real estate, notice shall be given by mail directly to each property owner, as shown by the land books of the county, city or town whose assessment has been changed.*

All notices of real estate assessment change were postmarked and mailed out by Blue Ridge

Appraisal Company on February 14, 2003.

#### CAN I SEE MY ASSESSMENT RECORD?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3331 A. states: *All property appraisal cards or sheets within the custody of a county, city or town assessing officer, except those cards or sheets*

*containing information made confidential by § 58.1-3, shall be open for inspection, after the notice of reassessment is mailed as provided in § 58.1-3330, the normal office hours of such official by any taxpayer, or his duly authorized representative, desiring to review such cards or sheets.*

Your real estate records are located in your Commissioner of the Revenue office located at 135 W. Cameron Street, Suite 9. You may view your records Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30 p.m. or call 540-727-3443 with any questions.

#### WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3350 states: *Any person aggrieved by any assessment under this chapter may apply for relief to the board of assessors, or if none, to the board of equalization created under Article 14 ( § 58.1-3370 et seq.) of this chapter or may directly apply to the appropriate circuit court of the county or city in those localities where application to the aforementioned board is not a prerequisite to the jurisdiction of the court.*

Applications to the Board of Assessors/ Professional Assessor were made either by phone, in person or in writing from February 19 to March 12, 2003 with hearings ending March 18, 2003.

By ordinance, as provided by the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, appeals to the Board of Equalization must be made by May 1, 2003. The Board of Equalization has until June 30, 2003 to hear and dispose of all applications for relief.

#### WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3370 A. states: *The circuit court having jurisdiction within each city and each county other than those counties operating under § 58.1-3371 shall, in each tax year immediately following the year a general reassessment or annual or biennial assessment is conducted in such city or county, appoint for such city or county a board of equalization of real estate assessments, unless such county or city has a permanent board of equalization appointed according to law.*

In December 2002, the County Board of Supervisors advertised a legal notice in the local newspapers and Channel 21, seeking interested individuals to serve on the Board of Equalization.

*Continued on back page...*

# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of  
The Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors



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ISSUE TWELVE

CULPEPER MINUTES

SUMMER 2003

## From Your Commissioner of the Revenue (Continued from page 23)

Letters of interest were submitted to the Deputy Clerk for the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, by December 31, 2002. On January 7, 2003, the Board of Supervisors reviewed letters of interest in closed session. On January 21, 2003 letters were sent out to the individuals the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to recommend to the Circuit Court Judges.

### WHAT QUALIFIES AN INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3374 states: *Except as provided in § 58.1-3371 or § 58.1-3373, every board of equalization shall be composed of not less than three nor more than five members who shall be freeholders in the county or city for which they are to serve and who shall be selected by the court or judge from the citizens of the county or city.*

§ 58.1-3374 continues...*In order to be eligible for appointment, each prospective member of such board shall attend and participate in the basic course of instruction given by the Department of Taxation under § 58.1-206.*

On March 14, 2003, the individuals recommended to the Judges by the Board of Supervisors attended basic training provided by Thomas E. Morelli, Senior Property Appraisal Consultant with the Department of Taxation.

### WHAT IS THE DUTY OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION?

Virginia § 58.1-3379 states: *The board shall hear and give consideration to such complaints and equalize such assessments and shall, moreover, be charged with the especial duty of increasing as well as decreasing assessments, whether specific complaint be laid or not, if in its judgment, the same be necessary to equalize and accomplish the end that the burden of taxation shall rest equally upon all citizens of such county or city. The commissioner*

*of the revenue of such county or city shall, when requested, attend the meetings of the board, without additional compensation, and shall call the attention of the board to such inequalities in real estate assessments in his county or city as may be known to him. Every board of equalization may go upon and inspect any real estate subject to equalization by it.*

### WILL MY CURRENT YEAR TAX BILL REFLECT CHANGES (IF ANY) MADE BY THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3385 states: *The commissioner of the revenue shall make on his land book the changes so ordered by the board and, if such changes affect the land book for the then current year and such land book has been then completed, the commissioner of the revenue may for that year make a supplemental assessment in case of an increase in valuation. In case of a decrease in valuation, the order of the board shall entitle the taxpayer to an exoneration from so much of the assessment as exceeds the proper amount, if the taxes have not been paid by him and, in case the taxes have been paid, to a refund of so much thereof as is erroneous.*

### HOW IS THE NEW TAX RATE DETERMINED?

The tax rate is determined by the governing body of a county, city or town in accordance with §58.1-3321 A & B of the Code of Virginia.

### WHAT IF I FIND AN ERROR IN THE INFORMATION ABOUT MY PROPERTY?

The Code of Virginia § 58.1-3980 allows you to apply to the Commissioner of the Revenue for correction of a factual error made by others in connection with conducting general reassessments within three years from the last day of the tax year for which such assessment was made.

**Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) 540-829-7500**  
**To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free**